

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVESTIGATIVE MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and the Criminal Investigation Division of the Marine Corps Installations National Capital Region located at Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCINCR/MCBQ), and congratulate the 2018 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Investigative Merit Award recipients.

The mission of the MCINCR/MCBQ Command Inspector General is to promote combat support readiness and program efficiency of subordinate commands and tenant activities, as required, in accordance with the Marine Corps Inspector General Program. This includes, but is not limited to, effectiveness, efficiency, discipline, morale, economy, ethics, and integrity.

On February 22, 2017, the U.S. Marine Corps was notified of gender discrimination and harassment occurring on social media sites, as illustrated by Marines United, a private Facebook group. Within days of notification, the Marine Corps and NCIS took action to investigate the defamatory matter and provide support services for all impacted by the online misconduct. The subsequent investigation, entitled "Operations Purple Harbor," analyzed the countless degrading images, comments, and videos to identify more than 100 victims and locate those responsible for posting the explicit material online.

Through the collection of evidence, interviews of witnesses, interrogations of subjects, and coordination with various law enforcement agencies (both federal and civilian), the Marines and civilians were able to assist victims in obtaining justice for their images being circulated without their knowledge or consent, and subsequently change the way the Marine Corps views social media misconduct.

It is my honor to include in the Record the following names as the 2018 Prince William Chamber of Commerce-Investigative Merit Award recipients for their extraordinary dedication and outstanding performance in initiating, investigating, and consequently resolving "Operation Purple Harbor":

Warrant Officer Nicholas Van Effen.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Bates.

Gunnery Sergeant Paul Lawless.

Staff Sergeant Ryan Martin.

Staff Sergeant Daniel Walker.

Sergeant Shawn Foley.

Sergeant Cody Smith.

Sergeant Andrew Timms.

Sergeant Mica Hamons.

Sergeant Sean Lyon.

Mrs. Estrella Carpenter.

Mrs. Liane Best.

Sergeant Logan McEachern.

Mr. Speaker, sexual harassment and gender discrimination must never be tolerated in any arena. We have all seen the courage of those who have dared to speak out against these

wrongs despite negative public scrutiny or damage to their reputations or even their livelihoods. I stand with all who promote safe environments free of discrimination, harassment, or fear. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2018 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Investigative Merit Award recipients of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Marine Corps Installations National Capital Region located at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes on Thursday, June 29, 2018 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on final passage for H. Res. 970, a resolution to compel the Department of Justice to comply with the request of the House investigators and turn over the remaining documents regarding the FBI's investigation of Russian influence over the 2016 election. The accusations of FBI abuse of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act have serious consequences for our Fourth Amendment and the American people deserve nothing less than complete transparency.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNADINE AND JOE SOBOTKA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bernadine and Joe Sobotka of Diagonal, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary on June 27, 2018.

Bernadine and Joe's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their many years together. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE TRAINING FUTURES GRADUATES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable group of individuals who

are making invaluable contributions to our Northern Virginia community. Founded in 1927, Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) has provided assistance to tens of thousands of individuals who otherwise might have gone without the most basic of needs. NVFS does this through a variety of services, including homelessness prevention & housing, early childhood development, health & nutrition, mental health, foster care, and youth initiatives services.

One program that deserves special recognition is the Training Futures program. Training Futures works with motivated, talented unemployed or under-employed individuals who have been largely overlooked in our communities, and who lack the skills needed to obtain better paying jobs offering real futures. Over the course of the six-month program, clients attend classes and programs designed to develop tactical office skills, including a Microsoft Office certificate that will better prepare them for a full-time, office-support position.

Through this training, graduates gain the skills, confidence, and cultural know-how to excel in professional, office support positions across industries. This creates a powerful and diverse talent pipeline for local businesses. Over the last twenty years, Training Futures has graduated over 2,200 individuals, with 75 percent of those individuals obtaining employment in office careers within six months of graduation. These jobs not only pay 60–65 percent more on average than what these graduates previously earned, but they also provide regular schedules and real opportunities for professional growth and promotion.

I meet often with Fortune 500 companies in my district, and a constant refrain among leadership is the difficulty in finding qualified applicants to fill their vacancies. This program and others like it help fill that gap, and put skilled professionals in positions throughout Northern Virginia. This provides economic benefits not only to our community, but to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2018 Training Futures graduates:

Bahtye Top, Beatriz Silva Aldana, Caroline Thai, Catalin Enamorado, Chiharu Adams, Edith Chistelle Toukam, Elias Abebe, Elizabeth Degeffa, Ester Lopez, Eyob Gebremariam, Fannie Ndemou, Fatima Khachab, Fatma Saeed, Feyzan Hajiesmailoo, Geraldine Sierra Parrado, Jonathan Angles, Koshan Jelani, Kyung Wha Hong, Manal Abdelmalak, Mieraf Demissie, Muna Addus, Nasser El Kekli, Neelad Haidari, Nibret Kebede, Roxana Saravia Ortiz, Salome Messa, Seung Hee Lee, Sophia Hassen, Steven Smaw, Tariq Habib, Tsering Choedon, Victoria Slaughter, Wendy Medrano, Zabiullah Nekzad, Zarema Dugrichilova.

Mr. Speaker, programs like Training Futures provide invaluable experiences for their graduates, while also helping them to create a better life for themselves and their families. I congratulate all of the graduates of this year's Training Futures program, as well as the Board of Directors and staff of Northern Virginia Family Service for all they do to make our community a better place. I ask my colleagues to please join me in wishing them great success in all their future endeavors.